

Arts-Based Service Learning

Engaging learners in identifying and meeting community needs through the arts.

Explore Prepare Create Learn Share

Amanda Cantrell Roche

Arts-Based Service Learning, Artist Statement:

The arts have a unique and potent role in our culture, our schools and our communities. It is my duty as an artist and teaching artist to utilize the position and gifts of the arts for positive change. Through social justice choreography and written word, I have been able to increase awareness, generate understanding, and provoke action for human rights causes.

In educational settings through exploration of the artistic process, I engage students in inquiry, creative problem solving skills, and reflection. Combining the communicative forces of the arts with service learning and identifying community needs empowers students to see what they have to offer, and to look beyond their own needs to those of their larger community. These endeavors nurture a sense of self-worth and expand comprehension of community, empathy, and the many ways we can learn and communicate. They also lay the foundation for students to become big picture thinkers and engaged citizens.



Photo: Martin O'Connor

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- *School and community arts-based service learning residencies*
- *Arts-based service learning workshops*
- *Professional development in arts integration*
- *Aesthetic education-based residencies and workshops for schools and communities*

Artistcorps
TENNESSEE

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ArtistCorps Tennessee (ACT) is comprised of a group of teaching artists who are trained to implement Arts-Based Service Learning programs in Tennessee. ACT is aligned with the national ArtistCorps which proposes that artists work in schools and communities considered economically disadvantaged to affect change. The mission of ACT is for teaching artists to work with Tennessee communities to make changes through the arts by addressing social issues. Social issues include socio-economic challenges, as addressed in the national model, as well as an array of other social issues. **Grants of up to \$6000 are available for funding ACT residencies in a school through the Tennessee Arts Commission. Grant deadlines for the 2011/2012 school year is in January 2011.**